



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

THEMIS KLARIDES
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER

Testimony in Support of House Bill Number 5529
Judiciary Committee
March 23, 2016

Chairmen Tong and Coleman, Ranking Members Rebimbas and Kissel and Members of the Judiciary Committee, I would like to thank the Committee for raising House Bill Number 5529: An Act Concerning Sexual Offender Registration Laws, Residency Restrictions for Registered Sexual Offenders.

Connecticut's sex offender registry is an important tool for parents to use in protecting their children. From time to time, we need to analyze the registry to ensure that it is relevant and useful for people utilizing it. House Bill 5529 provides vital updates to our current sex offender registration system.

This bill requires enhancements to the sex offender registry system. These enhancements are necessary to ensure that the information on the registry is accurate. An important enhancement within this bill is the establishment of a three-tiered registry system based on the severity of the committed sexual offense. This would allow for the public to more clearly understand the risk level of offenders on the registry.

House Bill 5529 updates the information which registrants must provide to law enforcement. The bill requires detailed information from registrants, including the name and address where the registrant is employed, the license plate number and vehicle description of any vehicle owned or operated by the registrant, and telephone and cell phone numbers of the registrant. Registrants should be required to submit to in-person verifications of the information they provide to law enforcement in order to ensure an accurate accounting of a registrant's physical location.

Additionally, HB 5529 prohibits registered sex offenders from residing within one thousand feet of schools or daycares. This restriction aims to keep registered sex offenders away from places where children congregate. I have submitted this particular proposal for many years and I hope this year the proposal moves forward. Keeping our children safe must be a priority.

I urge the Judiciary Committee to pass House Bill Number 5529 to strengthen the sexual offender laws within this state. Please allow the full General Assembly the opportunity to debate this issue and create a safer environment for the children of Connecticut.